

seventeenth century, it had many editions and many readers down to the revolution of 1688-89. Ever after this event it continued to be published and read, and one of the last editions appeared in the very year in which the French Revolution broke out. Its influence on political thought and aspiration in Scotland at least has been very marked. Partly from Knox, still more from Buchanan, Scotsmen learned the reasons for their political faith, which they advocated in Parliament and Assembly, and for which they fought on the battlefield. Its democratic ring went to the heart of a people which battled for its religious creed and its political rights. Buchanan, at least, does not take the name of the people in vain. The people, the multitude, is for him a real force in the nation, and its interests and even its judgments ought to be considered. In contrast to Knox, his instincts are democratic rather than aristocratic; and when he appeals to the people, it is his fellow-countrymen, not a partial assembly of barons and burgesses, that he undoubtedly understands by the term.

In his " History of Scotland," too, which he wrote in the last years of his life, he appears as the democrat throughout. He believes in a Celtic Council or Parliament which solemnly deposes its tyrant rulers centuries even before Christ! This sanguine democratic temperament in our perfervid Celtic historian may excite a smile, but recent research has tended to show that government among the ancient Celts, as among the ancient Teutons, was by no means absolute. To discern the prototype of the modern parliament in these ancient assemblies may be nai'Ve enough, especially as our author, like Hector Boece and John Major, shows a blissful capacity for placidly mistaking legend for fact. But to give a democratic colouring to the institutions of our legendary forefathers is not necessarily an anachronism, though the democracy may not be a modern one. What is amusing is the lack of true historic perspective which might have discovered differences as well as similitudes. Our amusement is not lessened by the probability that not one of the long list of legendary potentates, whose doings he gravely retails, ever existed in the flesh. They are as visionary as their history.

Though so characteristically democratic in spirit, the " De